

Application No. 09/909,288

Amdt. Date January 7, 2004

Reply to Official Action (Paper No. 10) of October 7, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

1 - 29. (Canceled)

30-35. (Withdrawn)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (New) A hard-surface cleaning composition for removing cooked-, baked-, or burnt-on food soil from cookware and tableware, the composition comprising a soil swelling agent and a thickening system comprising a synthetic smectite type clay thickening agent having an average platelet size of less than about 100 nm, wherein the composition has a pH, as measured in a 10% solution in distilled water, from greater than 11 to about 14.

39. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the thickening system further comprises a natural gum.

40. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition, when sprayed on a vertical stainless steel surface, has a flow velocity less than about 1 cm/s.

41. (New) The composition according to Claim 1 having shear thinning properties.

42. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition has a viscosity greater than about 1 Pa s at 6 rpm, lower than about 2 Pa s at 30 rpm, and lower than about 1 Pa s at 60 rpm, measured with a Brookfield cylinder viscometer (model LVDII) using 10 ml sample, a spindle S-31.

43. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition has a reserve alkalinity of less than about 5.

44. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises

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from about 0.05 to about 10% of surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants, non-ionic surfactants, semi-polar surfactants, and mixtures thereof.

45. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition displays an advancing contact angle on a polymerized grease-coated glass substrate at 25°C of less than about 20°.

46. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition has a soil swelling index of at least about 100%.

47. (New) The composition according to Claim 1 further comprising a spreading auxiliary selected from the group consisting of organic solvent components, wetting agents, and mixtures thereof.

48. (New) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein the spreading auxiliary has a liquid surface tension of less than about 30 mN/m.

49. (New) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein the spreading auxiliary comprises one or more organic solvent components selected from the group consisting of alcoholic solvents, glycols, glycol derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

50. (New) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein the spreading auxiliary comprises a mixture of a fully water-miscible organic solvent and a coupling organic solvent having limited miscibility in water and wherein the ratio of water-miscible organic solvent to coupling organic solvent is in the range from about 4:1 to about 1:20.

51. (New) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein the spreading auxiliary comprises a wetting agent having a liquid surface tension of less than about 30 mN/m.

52. (New) The composition according to Claim 47, wherein the spreading auxiliary comprises an amine oxide wetting agent.

53. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the soil swelling agent is an organoamine solvent selected from the group consisting of alkanolamines, alkylamines, alkyleneamines, and mixtures thereof.

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54. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition has a polymerized grease removal index of at least 25%.

55. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a dishwashing pretreatment composition.

56. (New) The composition according to Claim 1 additionally comprising a salt having a divalent cation.

57. (New) A hard surface cleaning product comprising the hard surface cleaning composition of Claim 1 and a spray dispenser, wherein spray droplets from the spray dispenser have an average equivalent geometric diameter from about 3 μm to about 10 μm , as measured using a TSI Aerosizer.

58. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the thickening system further comprises a viscoelastic, thixotropic thickening agent.

59. (New) A hard-surface cleaning composition for removing cooked-, baked-, or burnt-on food soil from cookware and tableware, the composition comprising an organic solvent system and a synthetic smectite type clay thickening agent having an average platelet size of less than about 100 nm, wherein the organic solvent system comprises at least one solvent component acting as a soil swelling agent, and wherein the composition has a pH, as measured in a 10% solution in distilled water, from greater than 11 to about 14.

60. (New) The composition according to Claim 59, wherein the organic solvent system is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, amines, esters, glycol ethers, glycols, terpenes, and mixtures thereof, and includes at least one organoamine solvent component.

61. (New) The composition according to Claim 59, wherein the organic solvent system is selected from the group consisting of organoamine solvents, inclusive of alkanolamines, alkylamines, alkyleneamines, and mixtures thereof; alcoholic solvents, inclusive of aromatic, aliphatic and cycloaliphatic alcohols, and mixtures thereof; glycols and glycol derivatives, inclusive of C₂-C₃ (poly)alkylene glycols, glycol ethers, glycol esters, and mixtures thereof; and mixtures selected from organoamine solvents, alcoholic solvents, glycols and glycol derivatives.

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62. (New) The composition according to Claim 59, wherein the organic solvent comprises an organoamine solvent and a glycol ether solvent, wherein the glycol ether solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, diethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, propylene glycol monobutyl ether, dipropylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylene glycol phenyl ether, and mixtures thereof.

63. (New) The composition according to Claim 59, wherein the glycol ether is a mixture of diethylene glycol monobutyl ether and propylene glycol butyl ether.

64. (New) The composition according to Claim 59, wherein the organic solvent system has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% at about 1 mm Hg.

65. (New) The composition according to Claim 59, wherein the organic solvent system is essentially free of solvent components having: a boiling point below about 150°C, a flash point below about 50°C, or a vapor pressure above about 1 mm Hg.

66. (New) A hard-surface cleaning composition for removing cooked-, baked-, or burnt-on food soil from cookware and tableware, the composition comprising a soil swelling agent and a shear-thinning thickening system whereby the composition has a viscosity greater than about 1 Pa s at 6 rpm, lower than about 2 Pa s at 30 rpm, and lower than about 1 Pa s at 60 rpm, measured with a Brookfield cylinder viscometer (model LVDII) using 10 ml sample, a spindle S-31; wherein the composition, when sprayed on a vertical stainless steel surface, has a flow velocity less than about 1 cm/s; and wherein the composition has a pH, as measured in a 10% solution in distilled water, from greater than 11 to about 14.